

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 12 and 13 are new. Basis for the amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings originally filed.

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference signs mentioned in the description. The drawings and the specification have been amended to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

SPECIFICATION

The disclosure is objected to because of informalities. The specification has been amended to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Perevozchikov (U.S. Pat. No. 6,299,423). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 1 has been amended to define the discharge valve as abutting a bottom surface of the recess when the valve is in its first and second position, and to be spaced from the bottom surface when the valve is in its third position.

Perevozchikov discusses a discharge valve 130 which abuts the bottom of the recess in all three positions defined by the Examiner. The discharge valve in Perevozchikov is never spaced from the bottom surface.

Thus, Applicant believes Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 4-11 which ultimately depend from Claim 1 are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art or record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foster (U.S. Pat. No. 3,060,959). Claims 2 and 3 ultimately depend from Claim 1. As discussed above, Claim 1 has been amended and is now believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Thus, Claims 2 and 3 are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIMS

New Claims 12 and 13 are new independent Claims. Claim 12 defines an inlet and an outlet for the discharge valve where fluid flows around an outer periphery of the discharge valve between the inlet and the outlet when the valve is in the third position. (Similar to Claim 3). Foster teaches flow around valve piston 7 but that flow is to vents 15 and 16 and not to outlet 20. (Column 2, lines 15-18).

New Claim 13 defines the discharge valve as having a valve seat and a valve plate. The valve seat and the valve plate are defined as being axially movable. (Similar to Claim 2). Foster only teaches valve piston 7 as being moveable and clearly valve seat 21 is not.

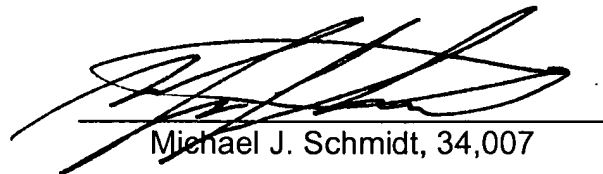
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 21, 2006

By:



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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet" of drawing includes changes to Figure 5.

Figure 5 has been amended by adding reference numeral 172 along with its leader line.

The attached "Replacement Sheet," which includes Figure 5, replaces the original sheet including Figure 5.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet